

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00221 222051Z

14

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 EB-07 AID-05 /081 W

----- 107446

R 221925Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5471

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, PARM, MX

SUBJ: ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES, MEXICO'S FOREIGN SECRETARY:

BIOGRAPHIC INFO

REF: A. MEXICO 11420

B. USUN 6998

1. GARCIA ROBLES' TENURE AT UN WAS CHARACTERIZED BY ACTIVITY AND INFLUENCE. WHILE THIS WAS PARTIALLY DUE TO MEXICO'S ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY, IT WAS ALSO TO A LARGE DEGREE A MEASURE OF THE MEXICAN PERMREP'S INTELLIGENCE, DETERMINATION, RHETORICAL SKILLS AND THOROUGH-GOING KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN SYSTEM.

2. ONE OF THE SKILLS WHICH HAS ENABLED GARCIA ROBLES TO FUNCTION SO EFFICIENTLY AT THE UN IS A SUPERB KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN SYSTEM ITSELF. IN THE VIEW OF MANY, HE HAS DONE MORE TO MAKE THAT MACHINERY WORK TO SERVE HIS ENDS THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL. FREQUENTLY, HE HAS USED HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN SYSTEM TO GREAT TACTICAL ADVANTAGE, EVEN IN CASES WHERE HE LACKED SUBSTANTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE QUESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. WHILE FORTHRIGHT WHEN IT SUITS HIM, GARCIA ROBLES IS SOMETIMES MISLEADING AND DOES NOT RUSH TO CLEAR UP  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00221 222051Z

MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH HE PERCEIVES TO WORK TO HIS ADVANTAGE.

HE IS METHODICAL AND LAWYER-LIKE, CAREFULLY BUILDING A BODY OF PRECEDENT -- SOMETIMES BY READING HELPFUL STATEMENTS INTO THE RECORD TO WHICH HE LATER REFERS.

4. ANOTHER ASPECT OF GARCIA'S CHARACTER WHICH WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT DURING HIS UN SOJURN IS HIS SUBSTANTIAL SELFESTEEM. WHILE GARCIA ROBLES IF FREQUENTLY FORMAL, DISTANT AND TACITURN, HE CAN BE GRACIOUS AND FORTHCOMING WHEN IT SUITS HIM. HE IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE DIGNITY AND PREROGATIVES OF HIS OFFICE.

5. DISARMAMENT. GARCIA ROBLES WAS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN TWO AREAS -- DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. AS MEXICO'S PREEMINENT DISARMAMENT EXPERT, OPERATING ON A VERY FREE REIN ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS, GARCIA ROBLES CUT A PARTICULARLY WIDE SWATCH IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATES. HIS WIDE-SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF DISARMAMENT, LONG STANDING EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD, PASSIONATE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT AND LACK OF INHIBITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS CAPITAL, ENABLED THE MEXICAN ERMREP TO BECOME THE SELF-PROCLAIMED SPOKESMAN FOR THE NON-ALIGNED ON DISARMAMENT. HOWEVER, WHILE FREQUENTLY MARCHING IN STEP WITH HIS NON-ALIGNED BRETHREN, HE WOULD OCCASIONALLY TAKE POSITIONS SO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF THE FIELD AS TO LEAVE MANY WONDERING WHERE HE WAS GOING. HIS PROPOSED PROTOCOLS TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE SO FAR REMOVED FROM REALITY AS TO SEEM SILLY TO MANY DELEGATIONS. HIS ATTEMPT TO WRITE HIS OWN DEFINITION OF THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE CONCEPT (INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES' OBLIGATIONS) INTO INTERNATIONAL LAW AT 30TH UNGA -- A FAILURE BY UNGA DISARMAMENT STANDARDS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED -- IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GARCIA ROBLES OUTDISTANCING HIS ADOPTED CONSTITUENCY. ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AT 30TH UNGA (AMENDMENTS TO PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION RESOLUTION, FOR EXAMPLE, HE TOOK EXTREME POSITIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING OF THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND SEEMED AS A CONSEQUENCE TO BE SPEAKING EXCLUSIVELY FOR HIMSELF. GARCIA ROBLES, HOWEVER, SOMETIMES FURTHERED HIS IMAGE AS DIPLOMAT AND COMPROMISER BY MAGNANIMOUSLY BACKING OFF SOME OF HIS MORE EXTREME PROPOSALS. WHILE GARCIA ROBLES IS PREPARED TO TAKE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLIC STANDS, HE IS MUCH MORE REASONABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00221 222051Z

IN PERSON.

6. GARCIA ROBLES HAS BUILT HIS STANDING ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS LARGELY ON CRITICISM OF THE POSITIONS OF BOTH THE US AND USSR (INADEQUATE PROGRESS ON SALT AND FAILURE TO CONCLUDE A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY). HE HAS BEEN QUICK TO POINT UP OCCASIONS WHERE THE US AND USSR HAVE NOT FULFILLED THE LETTER OF

ALL TREATY OBLIGATIONS (ARTICLE 6 OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, FOR EXAMPLE) AND HAS THEN REPEATEDLY HARPED ON THESE DEFICIENCIES. GARCIA ROBLES HAS BEEN EQUALLY CRITICAL OF THE DISARMAMENT RECORDS OF BOTH US AND USSR, BUT, ON OCCASION, HE HAS TAKEN AN EVEN SHARPER LINE WITH SOVIETS AND HAS ENGAGED IN PERIODIC VITUPERATIVE EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET PERMREP.

7. ECONOMIC FORUMS. CONINCIDENT WITH GARCIA ROBLES' TENURE IN NEW YORK, MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND MEXICAN DELEGATION TO UN MOVED FROM A COMPLETELY PASSIVE POSITION IN UN ECONOMIC FORUMS TO ONE OF HYPER-ACTIVITY. DURING THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS ON CHARTER FOR ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS), A PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, THE MEXICAN DELEGATIONS TO VARIOUS ECONOMIC FORA BEGAN TO BE BEEFED UP AND TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY. IN A CERTAIN SENSE THE CAPSTONE OF MEXICAN PARTICIPATION AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT GARCIA ROBLES AS PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK GROUP OF 77 FROM THE FALL OF 1974 THROUGH OCTOBER 1975 OCCUPIED A KEY POSITION AT THE HEAD OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF GA CONSIDERATION OF CERDS AND DURING THE UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT. AT SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, GARCIA ROBLES WAS ONE OF FIVE SPOKESMEN FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THE SUCCESS OF THE SESSION, FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW, CAN BE LARGELY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT GARCIA ROBLES, TOGETHER WITH VENEZUELAN MINISTER PEREZ-GUERRERO, AMBASSADOR LAI OF MALAYSIA, AND AMBASSADOR AMUZEGAR OF IRAN, MANAGED TO IMPOSE A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF DISCIPLINE ON THE ORDINARILY UNRULY GROUP OF 77 AND THUS PROVIDED AN INDISPENSABLE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, GARCIA ROBLES AND HIS STAFF PUSHED IDEOLOGICAL POINTS HARD AGAINST FIRM U.S. OPPOSITION AND, ON OCCASION, ENGAGED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USUN N 00221 222051Z

IN BEHAVIOUR BORDERING ON DECEIT. THIS BEHAVIOUS COMPLICATED THE FINAL AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AND CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO THE NECESSITY FOR U.S. STATEMENTS OF RESERVATION ON PHRASEOLOGY IN THE FINAL DOCUMENTS.

8. IT APPEARS LIKELY TO USUN THAT GARCIA ROBLES WILL WISH TO ATTEMPT TO PERPETUATE AND PERHAPS INSTITUTIONALIZE MEXICAN INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS. HIS LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELAN MINISTER PEREZ-GUERRERO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SIGNIFICANT IN THE CONTEXT OF UN ECONOMIC FORUMS AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION, SELA.

9. DESPITE GARCIA ROBLES' WILLINGNESS TO CRITICIZE AND COUNTER UNITED STATES POLICIES WHEN HE DEEMS IT IN MEXICO'S

OR HIS INTEREST AND THE FACT THAT HE IS A FERVENT NATIONALIST, WE DO NOT CONSIDER HIM SYSTEMATICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY ANTI-AMERICAN. TO THE CONTRARY, HE AND I WORKED CLOSELY, IF PRIVATELY, THROUGHOUT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION TO INSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. THIS ASSUMED THAT A GOOD DEAL OF TUB THUMPING WOULD BE A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE, BUT IN NO WAY AN OBSTACLE. THE BULK OF THIS CABLE IS A COMPILATION OF REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WHO HAVE KNOWN GARCIA ROBLES LONGER THAN I, BUT I ADD MY PERSONAL JUDGMENT THAT HE IS HIGH QUALITY. I HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYONE I RESPECTED MORE AS A NEGOTIATOR.

MOYNIHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976USUNN00221  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760026-0105  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760130/aaaabagr.tel  
**Line Count:** 181  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MEXICO 11420  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 OCT 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES, MEXICO'S FOREIGN SECRETARY: BIOGRAPHIC INFO  
**TAGS:** PINR, PFOR, PARM, MX, UN, (GARCIA ROBLES, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006